1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

873 and study groups, conferences, education and literature weeks, instruction for libraries, country theaters, etc., and it tried to encourage the production of original plays by organizing play contests.

871 [645] All Estonian schools were under the direction of the Ministry of Education, and the supervision of teaching methods in these schools was carried on by chief-inspectors or by school superintendents. The superintendent and the school council (much like our own PTA) were responsible for the internal management of each school.

875 The training of elementary school teachers was carried out in teachers' seminaries which operated free of charge and, after the year 1937, offered a four-year course beyond the junior high school level. High school teachers had to

874 Tartu University was founded by the Swedish King Gustaf II Adolf, when Estonia was under Swedish rule, and it opened its doors as Academia Gustaviana on Oct. 15, 1632, with four faculties. The language of study was Latin, later Swedish. The University closed its doors several times during the wars which devastated the country. In the nineteenth century the University was dominated by the Russians, the language of instruction being first German and later, after 1889, Russian.

On Dec. 1, 1919, this Estonian university, named now Tartu University, was opened with festive celebration; the language of study was now Estonian.

874 645 Tartu University was subordinate to the Ministry of Education, being dependent on this ministry especially in its financial operation, but

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974 [645]

otherwise enjoying a wide autonomy and full academic freedom in its teaching activities. The highest administrator of the University was the Rector who was elected by the faculty for a three-year period. By the law of 1938 the Rector was appointed by the President of the Republic for a five-year period. The seven faculties, each of which was administered by a dean, were: theology, law, medicine, philosophy, mathematics and natural science, including geography, the veterinary faculty, and agriculture, which included forestry. Each of these divisions was free to use its own judgment in organizing and supervising teaching and the associated research institutions. The Faculty of Philosophy was formed according to Scandinavian and Finnish models; the other faculties followed more the examples of West European universities.

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177 English occupies third place, and many schools
.87
871 have dropped it entirely. Great emphasis is put on military training for boys and girls, this being started in the third grade. At numerous celebrations, shooting competitions between youthful teams are often part of the programs.

645 All schools are subordinated to the Ministry
871 of Education (formerly Commissariat) of the Estonian SSR, which in turn receives its orders from Moscow.

883 The national and international youth organiza-
665
626 tions, such as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, the YMCA and the YWCA, as well as all school clubs have been closed, and some reports have indicated that Estonian children are forced to join such Communist organizations as The Children of October, for children from 7 to 10 years; the Pioneers, for children from 10 to 15

4466 Heavy physical labor or work injurious to health was forbidden for women and children. Working conditions were improved with regulations on working conditions and safety.

● [445] The Ministry of Social Welfare supervised the observance of all laws[1] through the State Labor Inspectors, who also were on the lookout for possibilities of further improvements.

745 Social insurance was tremendously extended during the years of independence. Victims of on-the-job accidents received free medical care and artificial limbs, if needed, and in the case of disablement, two-thirds of their wages. In case of permanent disablement, a pension was paid, and in the case of death, the family received funeral subsidies and a pension. Work-accident expenses were all paid by the employer. The farm workers were also insured against

[1] [See cat. 116, pp. 300-2-302- --Analyst]

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 2b,

Political Background

STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

177 Government in the Estonian SSR is the same
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642 as in all the republics of the Soviet Union.

646 The legislative branch of parliament is the Supreme Soviet (Ülemnõukogu), consisting of deputies, elected by the people, one for every 10,000 citizens, for a term of four years. The candidates are nominated by the Communist Party. The Supreme Soviet elects its Presidium and Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet convene twice a year.

645 The executive and administrative branch is the Council of Ministers, which is responsible to the Supreme Soviet. Formerly the Ministers were called the People's Commissars. There

645 are at the present time over 20 Ministers in the Estonian SSR. In independent Estonia the average number of Ministers was ten. This parliamentary order is built up to create the impression in the outside world that the U. S. S. R. is a democratic state, but behind the scenes rules the Communist Party, which dictates in details what the Supreme Soviet has to legislate and the Council of Ministers to carry out.

692 The judicial organization is built up as follows: the highest organ is the Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR, subordinated to which are the District Courts, Special Courts and People's Courts. The judiciary is not an impartial and independent organization where the rights of the people find protection; it, too, is subordinate to the Communist Party and to the secret police.

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 2h,

Political Background

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PERSONALITIES

645 Not applicable. The cabinet members of the First Soviet Occupation have all been purged and the new ones are unknown.

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

643 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are con-
646 vened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and five members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for all its activities.

Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

b) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Estonian SSR in operation;

c) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

● [645] d) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies if they do not conform to law;

e) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Estonian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

f) Confers titles of honour of the Estonian SSR;

g) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

h) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Estonian SSR to foreign states;

i) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

646 Estonian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 646 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR not later than one month after the elections.

[646] 645 Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR appoints the Government of the Estonian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Estonian SSR

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Estonian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Estonian SSR and of other economic, administrative and cultural institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorised representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Estonian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Estonian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Estonian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfilment of the state and local budgets of the Estonian SSR;

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d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

f) Sets up, whenever necessary, special Committees and Central Administrations under the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR for economic and cultural affairs;

g) Directs the organization of the military formations of the Estonian SSR;

h) Exercises guidance in the sphere of the relations of the Estonian SSR with foreign states, on the basis of the general procedure established by the USSR governing the relations of Union Republics with foreign states.

Art. 44. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR has the right to annul orders and instructions of the Ministers of the Estonian SSR, decisions and orders of Executive Committees of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and likewise to suspend decisions and orders of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and consists of:

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR;
The Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR;
The Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Estonian SSR;
The Ministers of the Estonian SSR of:
Defence
Foreign Affairs
Light Industry
Local Industry
The Food Industry
The Housing Construction and Building Materials Industry
The Fish Industry
The Shale and Chemical Industry
The Timber Industry
Finance
Agriculture
State Farms
Trade
Internal Affairs
State Security
Justice
Public Health
Education
Cinematography
The Municipal Economy
Social Maintenance
State Control and
The Representatives of all-Union Ministries.

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645 Art. 46. The Ministers of the Estonian SSR direct the branches of state administration which come within the jurisdiction of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 47. The Ministers of the Estonian SSR, within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR and of the orders and instructions of the Union-Republican Ministries of the USSR, and verify their execution.

Art. 48. The Ministries of the Estonian SSR are either Union-Republican or Republican Ministries. The following Ministries of the Estonian SSR are Union-Republican:

Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Light Industry
Ministry of The Food Industry
Ministry of The Fish Industry
Ministry of The Timber Industry
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of State Farms
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Trade
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of State Security
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Public Health
Ministry of Cinematography
Ministry of State Control;

The following Ministries of the Estonian SSR are Republican:

Ministry of Local Industry
Ministry of The Housing Construction and Building Materials Industry
Ministry of The Shale and Chemical Industry
Ministry of Education
Ministry of The Municipal Economy
Ministry of Social Maintenance.

Art. 49. Each Union-Republican Ministry of the Estonian SSR directs the branch of state administration of the Estonian SSR entrusted to it, with the exception of only a limited number of enterprises, according to a list confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

Art. 50. Each Republican Ministry of the Estonian SSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 51. The Government of the Estonian SSR or a Minister of the Estonian SSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR within a period not exceeding three days.

1 n [Errata: insert "USSR and of the Council of Ministers of the", Cf. Errata sheet, cat. 116, p. iii --Analyst]

[Estonian Constitution as of November 1947]

633 under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

a Department of Local Industry and
a Department of Land.

Art. 70. The Departments of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu and Paldiski City Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Estonian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

652 Art. 73. The state budget of the Estonian SSR is drawn up by the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of [645] the Estonian SSR for its approval.

Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR the 646 state budget of the Estonian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Estonian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Estonian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and published for general information.

631 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, settlement and village [652] Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Estonian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR, the District Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.